

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 183414

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 EB-11 AID-20 IGA-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /129 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/LA/PAN:SMBELL;ARA/LA:WGBOWDLER/VV

APPROVED BY ARA/LA:WGBOWDLER

L/ARA:DAGANTZ (DRAFT)

ARA/LA:JBKUBISCH (DRAFT)

NSC:MISS BROWNELL (DRAFT)

S/AB:AMB.BUNKER

ARA/PAF:RFIMBRES

D:MASAMUELS

S/S:JPMOFFAT

----- 010804

O 211934Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

GOVPANCANAL IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

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E.O.11652:DECONTROL 8.31.74

TAGS:PFOR, PN, CU

SUBJECT: RELATIONS WITH CUBA.

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS GUIDANCE FOR DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
SPOKESMAN AUGUST 21, 1974:

Q. HOW DOES THE USG VIEW PANAMA'S REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA?

A. IT CONTINUES TO BE OUR VIEW THAT THE OAS DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, IMPOSED COLLECTIVELY BY OAS MEMBERS

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PAGE 02 STATE 183414

IN 1964, SHOULD BE ADHERED TO UNLESS THEY ARE LIFTED IN

ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE 1964 OAS RESOLUTION.  
WE BELIEVE THAT ANY CHANGE IN THE OAS SANCTIONS SHOULD  
RESULT FROM COLLECTIVE ACTION BY THE OAS MEMBER STATES  
AND NOT THROUGH UNILATERAL DECISIONS.  
WE THEREFORE REGRET THAT THE PANAMA GOVERNMENT PROCEEDED  
OUTSIDE THE OAS.

Q. DID THE USG KNOW IN ADVANCE OF THIS INTENDED ACTION?

A. YES.

Q. HOW WAS THE USG INFORMED AND WAS THE USG ACTUALLY CON-  
SULTED?

A. I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THE DETAILS, BUT I CAN SAY THAT

AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS  
OCCURRED.

Q. DID THE USG TRY TO DISSUADE PANAMA FROM THIS ACTION?

A. IN THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, WE  
EXPLAINED OUR POSITION.

Q. WAS THE SECRETARY HIMSELF INVOLVED IN THAT EXCHANGE?

A. AS I SAID, I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THE DETAILS BUT I  
CAN SAY THAT APPROPRIATE LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON BOTH  
SIDES PARTICIPATED IN IT.

Q. WHY DID PANAMA TAKE THE ACTION UNILATERALLY, AND AT  
THIS TIME?

A. I WOULD SUGGEST YOU ADDRESS THAT QUESTION TO PANAMANIAN  
AUTHORITIES.

Q. HOW DOES THIS UNILATERAL ACTION BY PANAMA AFFECT THE  
TREATY NEGOTIATIONS?

A. THE U.S. INTENDS TO PURSUE THE NEGOTIATIONS. I DO NOT  
WANT TO SPECULATE ON WHAT EFFECT ON THEM PANAMA'S  
ACTION WILL HAVE.

Q. HOW ARE THE NEGOTIATIONS GOING?

A. AMB. BUNKER AND HIS DEPUTY HAVE BEEN VISITING PANAMA  
REGULARLY IN RECENT MONTHS, AND PROGRESS HAS BEEN  
ACHIEVED. BOTH PARTIES HAVE AGREED THAT THE NEGOTIA-  
TIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED CAREFULLY, METHODICALLY, AND  
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PAGE 03 STATE 183414

WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED.

Q. HAS NOT PANAMA BEEN DEALING A LOT WITH CUBA IN THE  
PAST?

A. I BELIEVE THERE HAVE BEEN SOME INTERCHANGES OF A  
CULTURAL AND SPORTS NATURE.

Q. DOESN'T THE USG PERCEIVE SOME THREAT TO THE CANAL'S

SECURITY BY VIRTUE OF A CUBAN PRESENCE IN PANAMA?

A. I WOULD THINK THAT PANAMA IS AS INTERESTED IN THE CANAL'S SECURITY AS THE U.S. IS -- THE CANAL IS A MAIN-STAY OF THAT COUNTRY'S ECONOMY.

Q. ON THE NEGOTIATIONS, WON'T SOME MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS REACT PRETTY STRONGLY TO PANAMA'S ACTION, AND BE

MORE AVERSE THAN EVER TO A NEW TREATY?

A. I REALLY DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON THAT. I THINK ANY CONGRESSIONAL REACTIONS SHOULD COME DIRECTLY FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

Q. WASN'T THERE A DEMONSTRATION THE OTHER DAY IN FRONT OF OUR EMBASSY IN PANAMA? ANY CONNECTION?

A. I UNDERSTAND THAT SECONDARY STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED AS A RESULT OF A DISPUTE BETWEEN THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED BRANDS COMPANY OVER THE COMPANY'S HALTING OF BANANA SHIPMENTS AND THAT THERE WAS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THAT DEMONSTRATION AND PANAMA'S ACTION REGARDING CUBA.

Q. ISN'T THE U.S. BECOMING INCREASINGLY ISOLATED ON THIS ISSUE AS COUNTRY AFTER COUNTRY RESUMES RELATIONS WITH CUBA?

SUGGESTED REPLY: THE OAS SANCTIONS CONTINUE TO BE RESPECTED BY A MAJORITY OF GOVERNMENTS PARTY TO THE RIO TREATY. AT PRESENT, FOUR STATES PARTY TO THE TREATY (MEXICO, PERU, ARGENTINA, AND NOW PANAMA) HAVE RELATIONS WITH CUBA. THIS MEANS THAT 16 DO NOT AND CON-

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PAGE 04 STATE 183414

TINUE TO ADHERE TO THE SANCTIONS. (THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES ALSO HAVE RELATIONS WITH CUBA BUT ARE NOT SIGNATORIES TO THE RIO TREATY: JAMAICA, BARBADOS, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, AND GUYANA.)

DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY RESPONDED TO FIRST AND LAST QUESTION AND WILL USE THE REST ON AN IF ASKED BASIS ONLY. KISSINGER

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